



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Council on Aging Minutes 02/21/2001

Members Present: Kathy McMahon, Richard Murray, Harry McCabe, Mary Dodge, Hannah Simon

Members Absent: Mildred Hurd, Harry Barber, Phil Mercandetti

Others Present: John Jope (COA Executive Director)

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Kathy McMahon, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
A quorum of 5 was present

Minutes of November 16 Council Meeting: It was MSV to accept the minutes as corrected with the words **Board**
Members taken out of the heading.

Welcome of New Council Member: Kathy and the other council members present welcomed Hannah Simon

Public Forum:

Executive Director's report: John reported Jackie Keshian will be retiring and her last day will be May 25. John, Jackie and Lourie will be meeting to plan interim approaches to health and wellness needs. Nursing student interns will still come to the COA and existing programs will be kept in place. After the town figures out how much money Jackie will be getting for her sick time, we will know how much money is left in the fund she gets paid out of and when we will be able to hire another nurse. John also reported that the ASA and COA would sponsor a joint volunteer luncheon in April. Five hundred dollars has been put aside in Formula Grant money from the COA, and the ASA has also set aside five hundred dollars for the volunteer luncheon. Possibly a little more money might be needed. Though the ASA has more volunteers than the COA, Harry McCabe reminded us that the Seniors Association is a program of the Council on Aging. It was MSV to take a small amount of additional money to cover expenses out of the Gift Fund if needed. John mentioned that last September after reviewing our Town Day activities, the board moved to establish a committee to plan COA involvement in Town Day this year. John recommended the board take a lead and the staff will follow.

STANDING REPORTS

Finance Committee: Richard reported he met briefly with John tonight before the start of the meeting. The figures look fine, just questioned the \$480 for the bereavement group leader. After discussion it was agreed to take the \$480 out of the amount put aside for training in Formula Grant and reimburse the Gift Fund \$480. Richard also reported the Sevoyan Bequest Fund was up a little.

Sevoyan Bequest Committee: Harry M. reported progress is being made and will report to the council soon.

Transportation Group: Kathy reported that Phil, Mildred and herself met with John twice back in December. John told the board that by the end of June the transportation program would be about \$2000 in the red. In fiscal year 2002 the shortfall could be between \$7000 & \$10,000. This would be due to the tremendous raise in driver's salaries due to job reclassification. Also the COA receptionist and Dial-A-Ride clerk get paid out of the Transportation Enterprise Fund. The Transportation Enterprise Program needs to be looked at closely and we need to determine it's future.

Needs Assessment Committee: Mary reported they have 3400 questionnaires went out in the January Senior Notes. To date they have about 170 questionnaires back. Marge & Ray Garrigan and COA volunteers have been putting the information in the computer. Mary has tallied up questionnaires at home also and will bring them in to Marge. Deadline to return them will be extended to end of March.

Assisted Living Task Force: No report. However Kathy mentioned the Task Force would meet at the Senior Center on Tuesday March 6 at 7 PM.

Minuteman Senior Services: (tabled)

COA representative to ASA: (tabled)

ASA representative to COA: (tabled)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COA Board vacancy; Minuteman Board vacancy: The board asked John to draft a letter to the Town Manager requesting he not appointment a ninth council member while the council considers what would be in their judgment the ideal fixed number for them. Harry M. suggested possibly one of the names the town manager has, that are interested in the COA, could fill the Minuteman board vacancy.

Exec. Secretary's memo "Agency Goals" dated May 18, 2000: (tabled)

ANY NEW BUSINESS

CDBG funding for COA, fiscal year 2002: John reported the Selectmen's hearing to accept proposals is Monday, March 26. Copies have to be Alan's office by March 19. It is helpful if 2 or 3 council members along with John could attend this meeting to answer any questions the selectmen might have. John was asked to consult with Alan McClennen regarding the \$10,000 for Assisted Living Task Force. We are requesting \$5000 more in FY 2002 for Adult Day Health Scholarships. These have been level funded for several years, however the rates for day care and transportation costs have been increasing for CESI clients. More clients are in need of subsidy.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.